FRISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

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CRIME LAB USING FINGERPRINT TECHNOLOGY TO SOLVE CRIMES

FRISCO, TX – In mid-September of this year, the Frisco Police Department Crime Laboratory began using the Texas Department of Public Safety Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) computer workstation. The NEC-developed workstation allows police department latent print analysts to submit fingerprints and palm prints collected from crime scenes to the computerized database for identification purposes. The database contains over 4.8 million records for comparison, and the Frisco Police Department is one of only 41 law enforcement agencies in the State of Texas to possess an in-house workstation.

The Frisco Police Department was awarded the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant in early 2010 that provided the funding for the workstation's hardware, software, and support. Analysts began using the AFIS terminal on September 17 and thus far have submitted 115 latent prints for search and identification purposes and conducted 1,686 human comparisons. To date, 25 confirmed identifications of persons of interest in 22 separate crimes have resulted from the analysts' work.

The results of Frisco's use of the AFIS workstation are very promising. Frisco police expect many more crimes to be solved as analysts work through old cases, and all new latent prints collected by police officers and crime scene investigators will be submitted to AFIS. Analysts will also begin using the workstation to submit latent prints from crime scenes to the FBI's computerized database, which contains fingerprint records of millions of individuals arrested for felony offenses nationwide.

The Frisco Police Department Crime Laboratory opened in the spring of 2007 after the police department moved into its new headquarters building on Stonebrook Parkway.

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